

Friday, January 16, 2015

The Maryland Board of Occupational Therapy (OT) Practice (Board)

Location: Spring Grove Hospital Center  
55 Wade Avenue – Bland Bryant Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Conference Room

Chairperson: Kamala Stevenson, MS, OTR/L

9:00 a.m.

GENERAL SESSION MINUTES

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Kamala Stevenson, MS, OTR/L, Chairperson  
Iyna Adams, OTR/L, CPAM, Vice Chairperson  
Mr. Kshepakaran, M.Ed., OTR/L, CAPS, FAOTA  
Vanessa Hughes, COTA/L  
A. Cassaundra Brown, Consumer Member  
Meenakshi Gupta, Consumer Member

**NON BOARD MEMBERS**

Donna Ashman, Executive Director  
Grant Gerber, Board Counsel  
Marilyn Pinkney, Licensing Coordinator

**GUESTS**

Robyn Elliott, MOTA  
Francine Miles, MOTA

1. Ms. Stevenson called the General Session Meeting to order at 9:48 a.m.

Ms. Stevenson read the following statement: Except in instances when the Board of Occupational Therapy expressly invites public testimony, questions, comments, or other forms of public participation in otherwise authorized by law, no member of the public meeting an open session may participate in the session.

2. Ms. Hughes motioned to approve the amended General Session Agenda – January 16, 2015. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
3. Ms. Brown moved to approve the General Session Minutes – December 19, 2014. Ms. Adams seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

## REPORTS

1. Mr. Gerber and Ms. Ashman will update the Record Retention Policy. This agenda item will remain on the Board's agenda until the project is completed.
- 2a. Mr. Gerber recommended that the Board to await the disposition of the Physical Therapy Examiners' regulatory proposal on Dry Needling so that the Board can base its strategy on their experience.
- 2b. Ms. Ashman informed the Board that Mr. David Sharp, Maryland Telemedicine Taskforce representative will speak on the subject of Telehealth at the next scheduled Board meeting.
- 2c. Ms. Ashman stated that the Board Office would begin accepting electronic verification of licensure from authenticated primary sources. In addition, the Board Office will accept completed Moral Character Forms electronically as well. Previously, the Board had discussed requiring the documents to be notarized, but decided against it. The Board recommended that a statement be added to the Moral Character Form that would alert those completing it of the possibility that the Board may be in contact for authentication.
- 2d. Ms. Ashman stated that the Board's current regulatory proposal has been submitted to the Department and is on schedule to be submitted to the AELR Committee for consideration in February.
3. The continuing education committee stated that the continuing education course reviews are up-to-date and business as usual.
- 3a. Ms. Ashman provided a report to the Board on the number of continuing education submissions received annually.
4. The Board reviewed correspondence on Lymphedema. The Board had discussion. The Board directed Ms. Ashman to send a response to the inquiry.
5. Ms. Robyn Elliott, MOTA representative, and Ms. Francine Miles, MOTA Representative, were in attendance at the Board meeting to speak on their concerns regarding the renewal cycle. They stated that they were not in favor of the proposal to offer a "test" of the biennial renewal cycle in June, 2015, and instead were opting to propose legislation to mandate the change to biennial renewal.
6. Ms. Stevenson summarized that the "test" was proposed as a measure of compromise in light of MOTA's wish to revert to biennial renewal. The Board continues to be concerned that licensees had not been informed of the increase in fees required to revert to biennial renewals. The Board offered to "roll out" an opportunity for a 2-year license with the next renewal cycle. The results of this test would either create the first 50% of licensees to renew biennially ongoing, or show that too few licensees were interested in making the change for the entire licensee base. Ms. Stevenson further stated that she was frustrated with the turn of events in light of the Board's willingness to:

- a. Revise the regulations to reflect biennial renewal if/when it is determined that the licensees prefer it given full knowledge of the associated fees; and,
  - b. Revise the current regulation to make more clear that licensees are authorized to carryover continuing education contact hours from one renewal cycle to the next; and,
  - c. Promulgate regulations to recognize NBCOT certification as meeting the continuing education requirements in Maryland, and granting a waiver from Maryland requirements to any licensee who maintains current certification. To date, 88% of licensees are eligible for this waiver.
7. The Board had discussion on an inquiry regarding Telemedicine. The Board directed Ms. Ashman to provide a response to the inquiry.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. There was no Unfinished Business for discussion.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Ms. Adams will provide ratification of applications after the Executive Session meeting.
2. Ms. Ashman is planning to confirm the Board's upcoming workshop at the Aspen Wye River Conference Center for Thursday, September 17 – 19, 2015 with recommendations to arrive on Thursday with a start time at noon and staying through Saturday afternoon. The contract will be signed today with the Board's final approval.
3. Ms. Gupta recommended the Board's membership in the Citizen Advocacy Conference.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. The service award will be addressed in the Executive Session.
2. Ms. Ashman informed the Board that the Robert's Rules in Brief is available in the Board office.
3. Ms. Ashman informed the Board Office maintains a library of continuing education materials for their use.
4. Ms. Ashman provided the Board with the new Mileage Rate Reimbursement of 57.5 effective January 1, 2015.
5. Ms. Ashman provided the Board with information on how to electronically track the status of expense reports online.

## ADJOURNMENT

Pursuant to the Maryland Government Article, Section 10-508(a)(13), Annotated Code of Maryland, Ms. Stevenson adjourned the General Session meeting at 11:19 a.m.

Submitted by:

*Marilyn Pinkney*

Marilyn Pinkney

Licensing Coordinator

1. Ms. Adams proposed the ratification of the applications from December 19, 2014 through January 15, 2015 of 16 occupational therapists and 5 occupational therapy assistants. Ms. Hughes motioned to approve the 21 applicants for licensure. Mr. Kshepakaran seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Clarrissa Wu	Occupational Therapist
Cara Mason	Occupational Therapist
Yael Applebaum	Occupational Therapist
Sarah Lowther	Occupational Therapist
Michelle Toledo	Occupational Therapist
Elizabeth Tucker	Occupational Therapist
Eliza Tibbits	Occupational Therapist
Michelle Hebb	Occupational Therapist
Alex Civil	Occupational Therapist
Deborah Lavian	Occupational Therapist
Colleen Sullivan	Occupational Therapist
Jamie Sumague	Occupational Therapist
Henry Pedrosa	Occupational Therapist
Keisha Lewis – Reinstatement	Occupational Therapist
Alexandra Harkins	Occupational Therapist
Gloria Lindsay	Occupational Therapist
Teresa King	Occupational Therapy Assistant
Michelle Haid	Occupational Therapy Assistant
Nina Moeinzadeh	Occupational Therapy Assistant
Joyce McCabe	Occupational Therapy Assistant
Carly Tolbert	Occupational Therapy Assistant

Pursuant to the Maryland Government Article, Section 10-508(a)(13), Annotated Code of Maryland, Ms. Stevenson adjourned the General Session meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Submitted by:

*Marilyn Pinkney*

Marilyn Pinkney

Licensing Coordinator